

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of generating a message for a first intellectual property case, the method comprising:

storing information related to a plurality of intellectual property cases on a computer-readable medium, the plurality of intellectual property cases including the first intellectual property case; case, wherein storing information related to the first intellectual property case comprises storing the information related to the first intellectual property case in a case data unit, wherein the case data unit stores data related to the first intellectual property case and one or more documents related to the first intellectual property case;

receiving a signal indicating occurrence of an event related to the first intellectual property case;

responsive to receiving the signal, identifying one or more rules associated with the event;

identifying at least a first rule from the one or more rules based upon filter criteria information associated with the one or more rules and based upon information related to the first intellectual property case stored on the computer-readable medium;

generating at least one message using the at least first rule, the message identifying an action to be performed in response to the event and identifying a date associated with the action; and

communicating the at least one message to a first designated client system.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of intellectual property cases includes patent cases and the first intellectual property case is a patent application case.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of intellectual property cases includes trademark cases and copyright cases.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the signal indicating occurrence of the event related to the first intellectual property case is generated responsive to a change in the information related to the first intellectual property case.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein identifying the at least first rule from the one or more rules based upon the filter criteria information comprises:

determining a set of rules from the one or more rules associated with the event, wherein a rule from the one or more rules is included in the set of rules if the filter criteria associated with the rule is satisfied by the information related to the first intellectual property case, the set of rules including the at least first rule.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein:
the plurality of intellectual property cases includes patent cases and the first intellectual property case is a patent application case; and
the filter criteria associated with each rule in the one or more rules comprises a criterion related to filing status of a patent case, a criterion related to a type of the patent case, and a criterion related to priority information for a patent case.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the at least one message using the at least first rule comprises:
determining an action associated with the at least first rule;
determining a date generation formula associated with the action and a base date used by the date generation formula;
applying the date generation formula to the base date to generate the date associated with the action; and

including information indicating the action associated with the at least first rule and the date generated by applying the date generation formula in the at least one message.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein communicating the at least one message to the first designated client system comprises:

determining one or more users associated with the first intellectual property case from information related to the first intellectual property case;

from the one or more users, determining a first user who is designated to receive the at least one message generated using the first rule;

communicating the at least one message to a system used by the first user.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein communicating the at least one message to the system used by the first user comprises:

sending an electronic mail message to first user, the electronic mail message including the at least one message.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for generating a message for a first intellectual property case, the method comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory configured to store:

information related to a plurality of intellectual property cases, the plurality of intellectual property cases including the first intellectual property case; and

a computer program;

wherein the processor is operative with the computer program to:

store in the memory information related to the first intellectual property case,

wherein storing information related to the first intellectual property case comprises storing the information related to the first intellectual property case in a case data unit, wherein the case data unit stores data related to the first intellectual property case and one or more documents related to the first intellectual property case;

receive a signal indicating occurrence of an event related to the first intellectual property case;
identify one or more rules associated with the event responsive to receiving the signal;
identify at least a first rule from the one or more rules based upon filter criteria information associated with the one or more rules and based upon information related to the first intellectual property case stored in the memory;
generate at least one message using the at least first rule, the message identifying an action to be performed in response to the event and identifying a date associated with the action; and
communicate the at least one message to a first designated client system.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein:
the plurality of intellectual property cases includes patent cases and the first intellectual property case is a patent application case, ~~ease; and~~
~~for each intellectual property case, the information related to the intellectual property case is stored in a case data unit, wherein the case data unit stores data related to the intellectual property case and one or more documents related to the intellectual property case.~~

13. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein:
the plurality of intellectual property cases includes patent cases and the first intellectual property case is a patent application case; and
the processor is operative with the computer program to determine a set of rules from the one or more rules associated with the event, wherein a rule from the one or more rules is included in the set of rules if the filter criteria associated with the rule is satisfied by the information related to the first intellectual property case, the set of rules including the at least first rule.

14. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the processor is operative with the computer program to:

- determine an action associated with the at least first rule;
- determine a date generation formula associated with the action and a base date used by the date generation formula;
- apply the date generation formula to the base date to generate the date associated with the action; and
- include information indicating the action associated with the at least first rule and the date generated by applying the date generation formula in the at least one message.

15. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the processor is operative with the computer program to:

- determine one or more users associated with the first intellectual property case from information related to the first intellectual property case;
- from the one or more users, determine a first user who is designated to receive the at least one message generated using the first rule;
- communicating the at least one message to a system used by the first user.

16. (Currently Amended) A docketing system comprising:

- a storage module, the storage module configured to store information related to a plurality of intellectual property cases on a computer-readable medium, the plurality of intellectual property cases including the first intellectual property case, the information related to each intellectual property case in the plurality of intellectual property cases including data related to the intellectual property case and ~~data related to one or more documents related to the~~ intellectual property case;
- a processing module, the processing module configured to:
 - receive a signal indicating occurrence of an event related to the first intellectual property case;
 - identify one or more rules associated with the event;

identify at least a first rule from the one or more rules based upon filter criteria information associated with the one or more rules and based upon information related to the first intellectual property case stored on the computer-readable medium; and

generate at least one message using the at least first rule, the message identifying an action to be performed in response to the event and identifying a date associated with the action; and

a communications module configured to communicate the at least one message to a first designated client system.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable storage medium for generating a message for a first intellectual property case, the computer program product comprising:

code for storing information related to a plurality of intellectual property cases on a computer-readable medium, the plurality of intellectual property cases including the first intellectual property ~~case~~; case, wherein storing information related to the first intellectual property case comprises storing the information related to the first intellectual property case in a case data unit, wherein the case data unit stores data related to the first intellectual property case and one or more documents related to the first intellectual property case;

code for receiving a signal indicating occurrence of an event related to the first intellectual property case;

code for identifying one or more rules associated with the event;

code for identifying at least a first rule from the one or more rules based upon filter criteria information associated with the one or more rules and based upon information related to the first intellectual property case stored on the computer-readable medium;

code for generating at least one message using the at least first rule, the message identifying an action to be performed in response to the event and identifying a date associated with the action; and

code for communicating the at least one message to a first designated client system.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the code for identifying the at least first rule from the one or more rules based upon the filter criteria information comprises:

code for determining a set of rules from the one or more rules associated with the event, wherein a rule from the one or more rules is included in the set of rules if the filter criteria associated with the rule is satisfied by the information related to the first intellectual property case, the set of rules including the at least first rule.

19. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the code for generating the at least one message using the at least first rule comprises:

code for determining an action associated with the at least first rule;
code for determining a date generation formula associated with the action and a base date used by the date generation formula;
code for applying the date generation formula to the base date to generate the date associated with the action; and
code for including information indicating the action associated with the at least first rule and the date generated by applying the date generation formula in the at least one message.

20. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the code for communicating the at least one message to the first designated client system comprises:

code for determining one or more users associated with the first intellectual property case from information related to the first intellectual property case;
code for determining a first user from the one or more users who is designated to receive the at least one message generated using the first rule; and
code for communicating the at least one message to a system used by the first user.

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more documents comprise one or more documents selected from the group consisting of: an invention disclosure, a filed patent

application, a patent drawing, an old version of a patent application, an office action, and a response to an office action.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein storing the one or more documents comprises storing each document as part of a document entity that comprises the document and a set of meta-data about the document.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the set of meta-data about the document comprises one or more data elements selected from the group consisting of a document ID, a document type, an originator, a status, a security profile, a file format, a creation date, a last modified date, a set of physical file attributes, a set of search field key words, a completion date, and a list of witness names.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
scanning a paper to produce a scanned document in a computer readable format;
wherein storing one or more documents comprises storing the scanned document.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
subjecting the scanned document to optical character recognition to recognize data from one or more fields from the scanned document;
wherein storing the data related to the intellectual property case comprises storing the recognized data in the case data unit.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the signal indicating occurrence of the event related to the first intellectual property case is generated responsive to the recognized data.